

S W A

How soon doth man decay!
When cloths are taken from a chest of sweets,
To swaddle infants, whose young breaths but mid and
Scarce knows the way; *Shak. Timon of Athens.*
Those cloths are little winding sheets,
Which do consign and fend them unto death. *Herbert.*
They swaddled me up in my night-gown with long pieces of
linen, till they had wrapt me in about an hundred yards of
fwathe. *Addison.*
2. To beat; to cudgel. A low ludicrous word.
Great on the bench, great in the saddle,
That could as well bind o'er as swaddle. *Handbrass.*
SWADDLE. *n. f.* [from the verb.] Cloths bound round the
body.
I begged them to uncase me: no, no, say they; and upon
that carried me to one of their houses, and put me to bed in
all my swaddles. *Addison.*
SWADDLING-BAND. *n. f.* [from *swaddle*.] Cloth wrapped
SWADDLING-CLOATH. *n. f.* round a new-born child.
From thence a fairy thee unwitting rest,
There as thou slept'st in tender swaddling-bands,
And her base elfin brood, there for thee left,
Such men do changelings call, to changed by fairies theft. *Fairy Queen.*
That great baby you see there is not yet out of his swaddling-
clouts. *Shak. Hamlet.*
The swaddlingbands were purple, wrought with gold. *Dryden.*
To SWAG. *v. n.* [Irish, Saxon; *swaig*, Islandick.] To
sink down by its weight; to lay heavy.
They are more apt, in swagging down, to pierce with their
points, than in the jacent posture, and crevice the wall. *Hart.*
Being a tall fish, and with his sides much compressed, he
hath a long fin upon his back, and another answering to it on
his belly; by which he is the better kept upright, or from
swagging on his sides. *Grew.*
To SWAGE. *v. a.* [from *affuage*.] To ease; to soften; to mi-
tigate.
Apt words have pow'r to swage
The tumours of a troubled mind,
And are as balm to fester'd wounds. *Milton.*
Nor wanting pow'r to mitigate and swage,
With solemn touches, troubled thoughts, and chase
Anguish, and doubt, and fear from mortal minds. *Milton.*
I will love thee,
Though my distracted senses should forsake me,
I'd find some intervals, when my poor heart
Should swage itself, and be let loose to thine. *Osway.*
To SWAGGER. *v. n.* [from *swagger*, Dutch, to make a noise;
Irish, Saxon.] To bluster; to bully; to be turbulently and
impudently proud and insolent.
Drunk? squabble? swagger? and discourse fustian with
one's own shadow? Oh thou invincible spirit of wine! *Shak.*
'Tis the gage of one that I should fight withal, if he be
alive; a rascal that swaggers'd with me last night. *Shak.*
Oft a terrible oath, with a swaggering accent sharply twang'd
off, gives manhood more approbation than proof itself. *Shak.*
The lesser size of mortals love to swagger for opinions, and
to boast infallibility of knowledge. *Glavin. Scyll.*
Many such asses in the world huff, look big, stare, dress,
cock, and swagger at the same noisy rate. *L'Estrange.*
He chuck'd,
And scarcely deign'd to set a foot to ground,
But swaggers'd like a lord. *Dryden.*
Confidence, how weakly soever founded, hath some effect
upon the ignorant, who think there is something more than
ordinary in a swaggering man that talks of nothing but de-
monstration. *Tillotson.*
To be great, is not to be starched, and formal, and superci-
lous; to swagger at our footmen, and browbeat our infe-
riors. *Collier on Pride.*
What a pleasure is it to be victorious in a cause? to swag-
ger at the bar? for a lawyer I was born, and a lawyer I will
be. *Arbutnot's History of John Bull.*
SWAGGERER. *n. f.* [from *swagger*.] A blusterer; a bully; a
turbulent noisy fellow.
He's no swaggerer, hostess; a tame cheater: you may stroke
him as gently as a puppy greyhound. *Shak. Henry IV.*
SWAGGY. *adj.* [from *swag*.] Dependent by its weight.
The beaver is called animal ventricosum, from his swaggy
and prominent belly. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*
SWAIN. *n. f.* [Irish, Saxon and Runick.]
1. A young man.
That good knight would not so nigh repair,
Himself estranging from their joyance vain,
Whose fellowship seem'd far unfit for warlike swain. *F. 2.*
2. A country servant employed in husbandry.
It were a happy life
To be no better than a homely swain. *Shak. Henry VI.*
3. A pastoral youth.
Blest swains! whose nymphs in ev'ry grace excel;
Blest nymphs! whose swains those graces sing so well. *Pope.*

S W A

SWAINMOTE. *n. f.* [from *swainmote*, law Lat.] A court touching
matters of the forest, kept by the charter of the forest three
times in the year. This court of swainmote is as incident to a forest,
as the court of piepowder is to a fair. The swainmote is a
court of freeholders within the forest. *Cowell.*
To SWALE. *v. a.* [Irish, Saxon, to kindle.] To waste or
To SWEAL. *v. a.* blaze away; to melt; as, the candle swales.
SWALLET. *n. f.* Among the tin-miners, water breaking in
upon the miners at their work. *Bailey.*
SWALLOW. *n. f.* [Irish, Saxon.] A small bird of pas-
sage, or, as some say, a bird that lies hid and sleeps in the
winter.
The swallow follows not Summer more willingly than we
your lordship. *Shak. Timon of Athens.*
Daffodils,
That come before the swallow dars, *Shak. Timon of Athens.*
The swallows make use of celandine, and the linner of
euphrasia. *Mor.*
When swallows fleet foat high and sport in air,
He told us that the welkin would be clear. *Gay.*
The swallow swoops
The slimy pool, to build his hanging house
Intent. *Thomson's Spring.*
To SWALLOW. *v. a.* [Irish, Saxon; *swalgen*, Dutch.]
1. To take down the throat.
I swallow down my spite. *Job vii. 19.*
If little faults
Shall not be wink'd at, how shall we stretch our eye,
Whose capital crimes chew'd swallows'd, and digested,
Appear before us? *Shak. Henry V.*
Men are, at a venture, of the religion of the country; and
must therefore swallow down opinions, as silly people do em-
piricks pills, and have nothing to do but believe that they will
do the cure. *Locke.*
2. To receive without examination.
Consider and judge of it as a matter of reason, and not
swallow it without examination as a matter of faith. *Locke.*
3. To engross; to appropriate.
Far be it from me, that I should swallow up or destroy. *2 Sa.*
Homer excels all the inventors of other arts in this, that he
has swallow'd up the honour of those who succeeded him. *Pope.*
4. To absorb; to take in; to sink in any abyss; to engulf.
Though you untie the winds, and let them fight
Against the churches, though the yelty waves
Confound and swallow navigation up. *Shak. Tit. Andron.*
I may be pluck'd into the swallowing womb
Of this deep pit, poor Bassianus' grave. *Shak. Tit. Andron.*
Death is swallow'd up in victory. *1 Cor. xv. 54.*
If the earth open her mouth and swallow them up, ye shall
understand that these men have provoked the Lord. *Num. xvi.*
In bogs swallow'd up and lost.
He hid many things from us, not that they would swallow
up our understanding, but divert our attention from what is
more important. *Decay of Piety.*
Nature would abhor
To be forced back again upon herself,
And like a whirlpool swallow her own streams. *Dryden and Let's Oedipus.*
Should not the sad occasion swallow up
My other cares, and draw them all into it? *Addison.*
Cities overturn'd,
And late at night in swallowing earthquake sunk. *Thomson.*
5. To devour; to destroy.
The necessary provision for life swallows the greatest part of
their time.
Corruption swallow'd what the liberal hand
Of bounty scatter'd. *Thomson's Autumn.*
6. To be lost in any thing; to be given up.
The priest and the prophet are swallow'd up of wine. *If.*
SWALLOW. *n. f.* [from the verb.] The throat; voracity.
Had this man of merit and mortification been called to ac-
count for his ungodly swallows, in gorging down the estates of
helpless widows and orphans, he would have told them that it
was all for charitable uses. *South.*
SWALLOWTAIL. *n. f.* A species of willow.
The shining willow they call swallowtail, because of the
pleasure of the leaf. *Bacon's Natural History.*
SWALLOWWORT. *n. f.* A plant.
SWAMP. The preterite of swim.
SWAMP. *n. f.* [from *swamm*, Gothick; *Irish*, Saxon; *swamm*,
Islandick; *swamm*, Dutch; *swamp*, Danish; *swamp*, Swedish.]
A marsh; a bog; a fen.
SWAMPY. *adj.* [from *swamp*.] Boggy; fenny.
Swampy fens breathe destructive myriads. *Thomson.*
SWAN. *n. f.* [Irish, Saxon; *swan*, Danish; *swan*, Dutch.]
The swan is a large water-fowl, that has a long and very
straight neck, and is very white, excepting when it is young.
Its legs and feet are black, as is its bill, which is like that of
a goose, but something rounder, and a little hooked at the
lower end of it: the two sides below its eyes are black and
shining like ebony. Swans use wings like sails, which catch
the wind, so that they are driven along in the water. *Feet*

S W A

feed upon herbs and some sort of grain like a goose, and some
are said to have lived three hundred years. There is a species
of swans with the feathers of their heads, towards the breast,
marked at the ends with a gold colour inclining to red. The
swan is reckoned by Moses among the unclean creatures; but
it was consecrated to Apollo the god of music, because it was
said to sing melodiously when it was near expiring; a tradition
generally received, but fabulous. *Calmet.*
With untainted eye
Compare her face with some that I shall show, *Shakespeare.*
And I will make thee think thy swan a crow.
Let music sound, while he doth make his choice;
Then if he lose, he makes a swan like end. *Shakespeare.*
I have seen a swan,
With bootless labour, swim against the tide,
And spend her strength with over-matching waves. *Shakespeare.*
The birds easy to be drawn are plainpates, or water-fowl,
as the mallard, goose, and swan. *Peacham on Drawing.*
The fearful matrons raise a screaming cry,
Old feeble men with fainter groans reply;
A jarring sound refutes, and mingles in the sky,
Like that of swans returning to the floods. *Dryden.*
The idea, which an Englishman signifies by the name swan,
is a white colour, long neck, black beak, black legs, and whole
feet, and all these of a certain size, with a power of swim-
ming in the water, and making a certain kind of noise. *Locke.*
SWANSKIN. *n. f.* [from *swan* and *skin*.] A kind of soft flannel,
imitating for warmth the down of a swan.
SWAP. *adv.* [ad *swapa*, to do at a snatch, Islandick.] Hastily;
with hasty violence: as, he did it swap. A low word.
To SWAP. *v. a.* To exchange. See To SWOP.
SWARD. *n. f.* [from *sward*, Swedish.]
1. The skin of bacon.
2. The surface of the ground: whence green sward, or green
sward.
Water, kept too long, loosens and softens the sward, makes
it subject to rushes and coarse grass. *Note on Tupper.*
The noon of night was past, when the foe
Came dreading o'er the level sward, that lies
Between the wood and the swift streaming Ouse. *A. Philips.*
To plant a vineyard in July, when the earth is very dry
and combustible, plow up the sward, and burn it. *Mortimer.*
SWAR. The preterite of swear.
SWARM. *n. f.* [Irish, Saxon; *swarm*, Dutch.]
1. A great body or number of bees or other small animals, par-
ticularly those bees that migrate from the hive.
A swarm of bees that cut the liquid sky,
Upon the topmost branch in clouds alight. *Dryden's En.*
2. A multitude; a crowd.
From this swarm of fair advantages,
You grip'd the general sway into your hand,
Forgot your oath to us at Doncaster. *Shakespeare.*
If we could number up those prodigious swarms that had
settled themselves in every part of it, they would amount to
more than can be found. *Addison on Italy.*
To SWARM. *v. n.* [Irish, Saxon; *swarmen*, Dutch.]
1. To rise as bees in a body, and quit the hive.
All hands employ'd,
Like labouring bees on a long Summer's day;
Some found the trumpet for the rest to swarm. *Dryden.*
Swarm'd on a rotten tick the bees I spy'd. *Gay.*
When bees hang in swarming time, they will presently rise,
if the weather hold. *Mortimer's Husbandry.*
2. To appear in multitudes; to crowd; to throng.
The mercilefs Macdonel,
The multiplying villanies of nature
Do swarm upon. *Shakespeare. Macbeth.*
Our superfluous lacqueys, and our peasants,
Who in unnecessary action swarm
About our squares of battle. *Shakespeare. Henry V.*
What a multitude of thoughts at once
Awaken'd in the swarm, while I consider
What from within I feel myself, and hear
What from without comes often to my ears. *Milton.*
Then mounts the throne, high plac'd before the shrine;
In crowds around the swarming people join. *Dryden's En.*
3. To be crowded; to be over-run; to be thronged.
These garbions you have now planted throughout all Ire-
land, and every place swarms with soldiers. *Spenser.*
Her lower region swarms with all sort of fowl, her rivers
with fish, and her seas with whole shoals. *Howell.*
Those days swarm'd with fables, and from such grounds
took hints for fictions, poisoning the world ever after. *Brown.*
4. To breed multitudes.
Not so thick swarm'd once the foil
Bedropp'd with blood of Gorgon. *Milton's Paradise Lost.*
SWART. *adj.* [from *swart*, Gothick; *Irish*, Saxon; *swart*,
Dutch.]
1. Black; darkly brown; tawney.
A nation strange, with visage swart,
And courage fierce, that all men did affray,
Through the world then swarmed in every part. *F. Queen.*

S W A

A man
Of swarth complexion, and of crabbed hute,
That him full of melancholy did shew. *Fairy Queen.*
Whereas I was black and swart before
With those clear rays which the infus'd on me,
That beauty am I blist with; which you see. *Shak. H. VI.*
No goblin, or swart fairy of the mine,
Hath hurtful power o'er true virginity. *Milton.*
2. In Milton it seems to signify black; gloomy; malignant.
Ye valleys low,
On whose fresh lap the swart star sparsely looks. *Milton.*
To SWART. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To blacken; to
dusk.
The heat of the sun may swart a living part, or even black
a dead or dissolving flesh. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*
SWARTHILY. *adv.* [from *swarthly*.] Blackly; duskyly; taw-
nily.
SWARTHINESS. *n. f.* [from *swarthly*.] Darkness of complexion;
tawnyness.
SWARTHY. *adj.* [See SWART.] Dark of complexion; black;
dusky; tawney.
Set me where, on some pathless plain,
The swarth Africans complain. *Rowe's Remon.*
Though in the torrid climates the common colour is black
or swarthly, yet the natural colour of the temperate climates is
more transparent and beautiful. *Hale's Origin of Mankind.*
Here swarthly Charles appears, and there *Addison.*
His brother with dejected air.
Did they know Cato, our remotest kings
Would pour embattled multitudes about him;
Their swarthly hosts would darken all our plains,
Doubling the native horror of the war, *Addison's Cato.*
And making death more grim.
SWASH. *n. f.* [A cant word.] A figure, whose circumference
is not round, but oval; and whose moldings lie not at right
angles, but oblique to the axis of the work. *Moxon.*
To SWASH. *v. n.* To make a great clatter or noise: whence
swashbuckler.
We'll have a swashing and a martial outdo,
As many other mannish cowards have,
That do outface it with their semblances. *Shakespeare.*
Draw, if you be men: Gregory, remember thy swashing
blow. *Shak. Romeo and Juliet.*
SWASHER. *n. f.* [from *swash*.] One who makes a show of
valour or force of arms.
I have observed these three swashers; three such anticks do
not amount to a man. *Shakespeare. Henry V.*
SWATCH. *n. f.* A swathe. Not in use.
One spreadeth those bands so in order to lie,
As barle in swathes may fill it thereby. *Tupper.*
SWATH. *n. f.* [from *swade*, Dutch.]
1. A line of grass cut down by the mower.
With toiling and raking, and setting on cox,
Grass, lately in swathes, is meat for an ox. *Tupper.*
The strawy Greeks, ripe for his edge,
Fall down before him, like the mower's swath. *Shakespeare.*
As soon as your grass is mown, if it lie thick in the swath,
neither air nor sun can pass freely through it. *Mortimer.*
2. A continued quantity.
An affection'd ass, that cons state without book, and utters
it by great swaths. *Shak. Twelfth Night.*
3. [Spear, to bind, Saxon.] A band; a fillet.
An Indian comb, a stick whereof is cut into three sharp and
round teeth four inches long: the other part is left for the
handle, adorned with fine straws laid along the sides, and
lapped round about it in several distinct swaths. *Grew.*
They swaddled me up in my night-gown with long pieces of
linen, which they folded about me, till they had wrapped me
in above an hundred yards of swathe. *Addison's Spectator.*
To SWATHE. *v. a.* [Irish, Saxon.] To bind, as a child
with bands and rollers.
Thrice hath this Hotspur, Mars in swathing cloaths,
This infant warrior, and his enterprizes,
Discomfited great Douglas. *Shak. Henry IV.*
He had two sons; the eldest of them at three years old,
I th' swathing cloaths the other, from their nursery
Were stol'n. *Shakespeare. Cymbeline.*
Their children are never swathed, or bound about with any
thing, when they are first born; but are put naked into the bed
with their parents to lie. *Abbot's Description of the World.*
Swath'd in her lap the bold nurse bore him out,
With olive branches cover'd round about. *Dryden.*
Master's feet are swath'd no longer,
If in the night too oft he kicks,
Or shows his loco-motive tricks. *Prior.*
To SWAY. *v. a.* [from *schweben*, German, to move.]
1. To wave in the hand; to move or wield with facility: as, to
sway the scepter.
Glancing fire out of the iron play'd,
As sparkles from the anvil rise,
When heavy hammers on the wedge are sway'd. *F. Queen.*